

June 4, 2024
Regular Session
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioners Clint Erickson, Earl Stafford, Brandon Newsom, Phillip Music and Commissioner Jeff Good, Chairman of the Board.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, and David Corbin, Project Director, were present.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Good called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. David Corbin, Project Director, led the prayer and pledge.

The first agenda item was Agenda Additions and Deletions. The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Commissioner Item A) Dogwood Lakes Boat Ramp – added
- Commissioner Item B) Indigent Burial Care – added
- Commissioner Item C) Road Department Foreman – added
- Agenda Item A) Surtax Referendum to be presented by Rohan Anderson – change
- Agenda Item B) Fire Trucks - added

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to accept the amended agenda with Commissioner Newsom offering the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the May 15, 2024 Special Session. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the May 16, 2024 Special Session. Commissioner Newsom offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to adopt the minutes from the May 21, 2024 Regular Session. Commissioner Music offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard Willsey, a Happy Hollow Road resident, reiterated his request for annual fire inspections of businesses within the County. He also requested that the Board ensure that the public can hear the Board's discussion during the meetings.

Donna Meldon, Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, requested reappointment of Sandy Spear to the CareerSource Chipola Board as the Chamber's community member. Commissioner Stafford offered a motion to reappoint Ms. Spear as requested with Commissioner Newsom offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Rohan Anderson, Doctors Memorial Hospital, requested that extending the indigent care half-cent surtax be placed on the November 2024 ballot for voter approval. Discussion included that the current surtax expires in December 2026, the tax revenue is used to pay the hospital's bond debt and that the hospital will pay for any costs associated with adding the referendum to the ballot. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to place the hospital surtax extension on the November ballot with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Dorothy Smith, Happy Hollow Road resident, discussed the need to build up Happy Hollow Road and eliminate the deep ditches that the current maintenance has created. Discussion included the maintenance done to mitigate the drainage issues on the road, the need for engineering services to design a resolution and the money needed to build up a road. The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Jim King, private citizen
- Richard Willsey, Happy Hollow Road resident

Chairman Good advised that the Pine Log fire truck and the Ponce de Leon pumper truck both need major repairs. The Board tabled this matter until repair estimates are received.

David Corbin, Project Director, introduced new Board Secretary Judi White.

David Corbin, Project Director, discussed giving stipends to the County employees involved in the Busy Bee property clearing and Rodeo preparation as well as District 2 Grader Operator Eddie Birge. Discussion included requesting stipends for the employees involved in the Busy Bee project from the Development Commission for a second time and conducting a salary study. The Board stated that the matter would be left to Mr. Corbin's discretion to make a recommendation.

John Feeney, Contracted Planner, presented an application for two lot splits from Four Hills Woodlands LLC for parcel number 1225.00-000-000-004.000 with the exemption due to a roadway creating two parcels to be split. He stated that the 201.78-acre tract will be divided into four lots containing a 15.38-acre parcel, a 13.97-acre parcel, a 45-acre parcel and an 86.77-acre parcel. Mr. Feeney recommended approval of the application as it meets all the requirements. Commissioner Erickson offered a motion approving the lot split north of County Road 65 with Commissioner Stafford offering a second. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Newsom offered a motion approving the lot split south of County Road 65. Commissioner Stafford offered a second and the motion passed unanimously.

(Application)

Ethan Merchant, Liberty Partners, discussed the following matters:

- Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday began June 1st
- Groundbreaking for the Government Efficiency Center (GEC) Ag Center will be scheduled for July

- Summary of the meeting concerning the GEC EMS building will be presented at the next meeting
- No freshwater fishing license required on Friday, June 7th

Chairman Good presented the following updates on Dewberry Engineering projects:

- Construction has started on the Ammons Road culvert project with an estimated 100 days to completion
- Bonifay Chipley Road paving project is awaiting the Department of Transportation's (DOT) approval to advertise

John Feeney, Alday Howell Engineering, stated that the final design for the County Road 185 SCRAP project will be submitted to DOT this week. The project will be ready to advertise upon approval with construction funds available in July.

Commissioner Stafford advised that Hanson Professional Services has confirmed that the hydraulic study on the Spring Valley/Turbeville Road Bridge project is completed.

Nate Nolin, County Attorney, presented a draft of the Special Event Ordinance proposed by the Special Event committee. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- Definition of large-scale outdoor events
- Permit requirements will allow some exemptions
- Application process
- Permit Fees
- Penalties
- Legal action being pursued for recent Sol Fest costs
- Contracting with the County versus private vendors for security, medical and fire services
- Time period to start process will be about six months before the event is scheduled
- Effective date of ordinance will be 90 days after adoption to allow for pending events
- Adding a School Board official to the Special Event Committee
- Grandfathering in business exempted under Article 2 of the proposed ordinance
- Ordinance is an attempt to defray costs of large-scale events to the County & taxpayers

The following citizens discussed this matter:

- Jim King, private citizen
- Jerry Smith, private citizen
- Lon Hornsby, private citizen
- John Feeney, Contracted Planner
- Keith Bennett, Holmes County Building Official
- Richard Willsey, private citizen

Attorney Nolin requested that the Board review the proposed ordinance and submit feedback which the Special Event Committee will use to prepare the final proposed ordinance.

(Ordinance Draft)

The Chairman announced a recess.

Upon reconvening, Commissioner Erickson presented a proposal from Don Smith to sell the Dogwood Lakes boat ramp to the County. The listed sale price is \$55,000 with the County paying all closing costs. Alternatively, Mr. Smith offered to accept \$10,000 at closing with owner financing for 48 months at 8% interest. Discussion included that having no access to Dogwood Lakes has disqualified the County from grants. The Board directed Mr. Corbin to negotiate a cash sales price with Mr. Smith to bring back to the next Board meeting.


Chairman Good advised that the City of Bonifay could potentially be taking over the I79 Corridor and no longer need the County's revenue sharing funds. He stated the matter is still under review.

Commissioner Erickson discussed the County's policy for turning ashes over to family members after the County has paid for cremation through the Indigent Burial process. Discussion included the amount of reimbursement required before a family member can claim the ashes. The Board directed County Attorney Nate Nolin to draft an ordinance concerning the matter.

Commissioner Newsom offered a motion to pay Road Foreman Forrest Somerset 100% of his accumulated leave upon his last day of employment with the County. Commissioner Music offered a second. Discussion included that the motion goes against the Board's policy and the effect on the County's budget to implement such a policy change. Commissioner Newsom amended his motion from paying Mr. Somerset to changing the Board's policy to give all employees leaving the County's employment in good standing 100% payout of their accumulated leave. Commissioner Erickson offered a second. Commissioners Erickson, Newsom, Music and Good voted yes with Commissioner Stafford voting no. The motion passed.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.


Clerk


Chairman